

REMARKS

This submission is in response to the Official Action dated January 14, 2005. Claims 1 and 2 have been amended. Support for the amendment is found on Fig. 2. No new matter has been added. Claims 4 and 5 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. Claims 1-3 are pending. Reconsideration of the above identified application, in view of the above amendments and the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

Telephone Interview

Applicants thank Examiner Nguyen for all of the courtesies extended in the telephone interviews held on February 11, 2005 and May 18, 2005, with Denise L. Poy. Applicants also thank the Examiner for discussing the rejection of the claims and the claim language.

Status of the Specification

The Specification has been amended to state that the hollow portions extend up to a position substantially near an end surface of the outer cylinder member to surround the block portion on an outer peripheral surface and a side surface thereof. Support for the amendment is found on Fig. 2, and therefore, no new matter has been added.

Claim Rejection - 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 5 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite. Specifically, the Examiner states that the use of the phrase "in such a manner as" renders claim 5 indefinite. Claim 5 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. Hence, the rejection of claim 5 has been rendered moot. Applicants respectfully submit that for at least the aforementioned reasons, the rejection of claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, should be withdrawn, and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejection - 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 4 and 5 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Nicholson in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,655,758 to Hadano et al. ("Hadano"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for the reasons set forth below.

Claims 4 and 5 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. Hence, the rejection of claims 4 and 5 has been rendered moot.

Furthermore, regarding amended claim 1, Hadano does not disclose or suggest that the hollow portion "directly [surrounds] the block portion on a radial outer peripheral surface and a side surface thereof; the radial outer peripheral surface of the block portion extends circumferentially; the side surface of the block portion extends from the radial outer peripheral surface to the main shaft member." As shown in Fig. 3, Hadano's cavity portion 22 extends in the circumferential direction along the hump portion 11. However, Hadano's cavity portion 22 does not directly surround the hump portion 11 along a side surface thereof. Fig. 3 shows that Hadano's cavity portion 22 is limited to the circumferential direction overlapping the hump portion 11 and does not extend directly over a side surface. Thus, Hadano, like Nicholson, also fails to teach or suggest all of the features of the present invention.

Hadano and Nicholson disclose different ways of providing a hollow portion, but fail to disclose or suggest the hollow portion set forth in the claimed invention. Thus, neither Hadano nor Nicholson increase the ratio of the elasticity of the bushing in the axial direction to the elasticity in a direction perpendicular to the axial direction, as provided by the present invention. Furthermore, neither Hadano nor Nicholson provide the durability of the bushing of the present invention.

Applicants respectfully submit that for at least the aforementioned reasons, the rejection of claims 4 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) should be withdrawn, and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue.

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Respectfully submitted,

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